## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 FRB-01 OMB-01 /046 W

-----040036 080642Z/21

P R 080512Z MAY 78 FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO USDA/FAS WASHDC PRIORITY INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0247 USLO PEKING

**UNCLAS HONG KONG 5749** 

TOFAS 109

FROM AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

REPORT NO. HK-8017; CODE 4AL

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: PRC COTTON

REF FASTO 88

QUANTITIES FASTO 88 TERMS 480 POUND BALES. LOCAL TRADERS BELIEVE PRC WILL IMPORT AT LEAST 2.0 MILLION BALES 1977/78 MARKETING YEAR. NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE THIS POST AS TO CHANGES IN COTTON RATIONS BUT RECENT REPORTS INDICATE NO PLANS TO INCREASE CLOTH RATION NEAR TERM. PRICE OF PRC COTTON CLOTH EXPORTS AT CANTON TRADE FAIR 50 PERCENT HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR AND BUSINESS SLUGGISH AS A RESULT. BELIEVE 1977 PRC COTTON OUTTURN IN RANGE OF 8.3 MILLIOM TO 9.2 MILLION BALES WITH OUTTURN POSSIBLY CLOSER TO BOTTOM OF RANGE BECAUSE OUTTURN SAID TO HAVE STAGNATED OVER PAST 10 YEARS THUS IMPLIED 1977 OUTTURN NEAR ESTIMATED

1967 OUTTURN OF ROUGHLY 8.0 MILLION BALES. BELIEVE OUTTURN

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HAS DECLINED EACH YEAR SINCE 1973 AND WE TENTATIVELY ESTIMATE 1974-76 OUTTURN AS FOLLOWS WITH PREVIOUS ESTIMATES IN PARENTHESIS IN MILLION 480 POUND BALES: 1974, 11.3 (11.7); 1975, 11.0 (11.0); 1976, 9.6 (10.8). ERISMAN

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## Message Attributes

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Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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